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EXDIS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PREF, EAID, PK, AF
SUBJECT: CODEL WILSON: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ZIA

1. S - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. CONGRESSMAN CHARLES WILSON (D-TEXAS) ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR HINTON AND DCM MET WITH PRESIDENT ZIA EVENING FEBRUARY 10. WITH ZIA WAS FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR NORTH AMERICA RAFAT MEHDI. WILSON BEGAN BY ASKING IF HE COULD RAISE SEVERAL SMALL PROBLEMS:

(A) FIRST, AT ANDREWS AFB WAS A PLANE LOADED WITH BOOTS AND WARM CLOTHING FOR AFGHANISTAN. CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORTERS OF THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE AND OF PAKISTAN WERE ANXIOUS THAT THESE GOODS BE DELIVERED. ZIA EXPLAINED THAT THE MECHANISM TO DEAL WITH AFGHAN CROSS-BORDER ASSISTANCE WAS NOT YET FULLY SET UP BUT SUGGESTED THAT THE PLANE COME AHEAD ANYWAY. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT HE HAD ASKED THE FOREIGN SECRETARY FOR A GO-AHEAD ON THIS TWO WEEKS AGO AND HAD NOTED THAT THIS WAS TO BE AN OVERT DELIVERY ABOUT WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT. THAT, SAID ZIA, WOULD BE DIFFICULT. WILSON RESPONDED THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT WAS NOT ESSENTIAL AND WONDERED WHETHER USE OF A MILITARY AIRCRAFT WAS A PROBLEM. NO, SAID ZIA, ONLY THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS A PROBLEM; EVEN LEAKS TO THE PRESS, WHICH HE ANTICIPATED, WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. PURSUE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT SAID ULTIMATELY THE GOODS WOULD BE TRANSPORTED TO AFGHANISTAN BY GENERAL AKHTAR. WILSON SUMMARIZED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT TRANSPORTATION TO PESHAWAR BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT FOR DELIVERY TO AFGHANS BY GENERAL AKHTAR'S SERVICE WAS

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WHAT THE PRESIDENT WAS COUNTENANCING AND ZIA AGREED.

(B) WILSON ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION THAT ZIA OBJECTED TO THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN DOCTORS IN AFGHANISTAN. ZIA SAID THIS WAS NOT TRUE; EUROPEAN DOCTORS ARE HELPING AFGHANS AND PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT DOESN'T OBJECT TO WHICH SIDE OF THE BORDER THEY DO IT ON; THE SAME IS TRUE FOR AMERICANS. AMBASSADOR INTERJECTED THAT APPROVAL LAST YEAR BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER FOR DR. SIMON'S OPERATION HAD BEEN ON THE CONDITION THAT NO AMERICANS GO INTO AFGHANISTAN. ZIA SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE CONDITION; U.S. DOCTORS SHOULD JUST DO AS THE EUROPEANS AND NOT ASK PERMISSION. WILSON SAID THIS WAS IMPORTANT IN THE U.S. WHERE A NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS ARE ANXIOUS TO HELP. HE THEN ALSO BRIEFLY DESCRIBED TRAINING FOR AFGHAN PARAMEDICS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY.

(C) WILSON ASKED WHETHER THE PLANE DELIVERING MCCOLLUM SUPPLIES COULD RETURN WITH WOUNDED AFGHANS WHO COULD BE TREATED FREE OF CHARGE IN U.S. HOSPITALS. ZIA SAW NO PROBLEM WITH THIS PROPOSAL SINCE SUCH WOUNDED ARE, IN FACT, REFUGEES. MOREOVER, SUCH A PROGRAM COULD RECEIVE AS MUCH PUBLICITY IN THE U.S. AS THE U.S. WANTED. HE DID SUGGEST THAT CARE BE TAKEN AS TO THE MODALITIES OF SELECTION.

3. WILSON CAUTIONED THAT NEXT YEAR WOULD BE A DIFFICULT ONE FOR THE PAKISTAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ON THE HILL, PARTICULARLY IF, AS ZIA CONFIRMED, PAKISTAN WOULD BE SEEKING CONCESSIONAL FMS TERMS. HE URGED THAT THE REPLACEMENT FOR AMBASSADOR AZIM BE EQUALLY COMPETENT. ZIA RESPONDED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER, IN CONSULTATION WITH HIM, WOULD SELECT THE BEST FOREIGN SERVICE MAN PAKISTAN HAS.

4. OTHER ISSUES. ZIA CONFIRMED THAT PWI WAS STILL ON HOLD. AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER, DESPITE THIS, A WAY COULD NOT BE FOUND TO BRING FORWARD THE COMMODITY PURCHASING TEAM. ZIA ASKED TO BE GIVEN A LITTLE MORE TIME ON THIS. AMBASSADOR THEN PROBED CONCERNING THE HEALTH AND EDUCATION TEAMS WHICH HAD ALREADY DONE THEIR PRELIMINARY WORK AND ABOUT WHOM THE RELEVANT AFGHAN ALLIANCE COMMITTEES WERE INQUIRING AS TO NEXT STEPS. ZIA ASKED WHAT HARM THERE WOULD BE IN WORKING

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ON THESE ON A REFUGEE TRACK EVEN THOUGH THEY INVOLVED CROSS-BORDER ACTIVITIES. AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER ZIA WAS SUGGESTING USING SAFRON AS THE MECHANISM FOR CONTINUED WORK ON THESE TWO PROJECTS AND ZIA AGREED, SUGGESTING THAT SYED MUNIR HUSSAIN, CHIEF SECRETARY OF SAFRON, BE A CONDUIT FOR HEALTH AND EDUCATION PROJECTS AT THIS TIME. AMBASSADOR THEN ASKED WHETHER EITHER THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OR SAFRON COULD NOT BE USED TO BRING OUT COMMODITY TEAM AS WELL, AND ZIA RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD SEEK THE ADVICE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON HOW BEST TO PROCEED AS AN INTERIM MEASURE.

5. CONGRESSMAN WILSON SAID HE PLANNED BOTH TO HAVE AFGHAN ALLIANCE SPOKESMAN SYED AHMED GILANI AND AN AFGHAN GROUP TESTIFY IN MARCH ON SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND VISIT TEXAS TO RAISE FUNDS, SOME OF

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WHICH COULD FINANCE ALLIANCE SECRETARIAT BUILDING IN
PESHAWAR. AMBASSADOR NOTED GILANI WOULD VISIT FRG
PARLIAMENT IN MID-MARCH AND ASKED IF GOP HAD
CONSIDERED WHETHER THE PRESENCE OF AFGHAN ALLIANCE
REPRESENTATIVES AT THE NEXT SESSION OF THE ERMACORA
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN GENEVA WOULD NOT BE
HELPFUL. ZIA SAID THIS WAS AN EXCELLENT IDEA AND
THAT GILANI WOULD BE EXCELLENT IN TERMS OF THE PUBLIC
RELATIONS ASPECT OF SUCH A MISSION. ZIA HOPED ALL
THESE EVENTS COULD BE WORKED INTO ONE.

6. CONGRESSMAN WILSON DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO
SEE THIS MESSAGE.

7. KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. HINTON
END OF MESSAGE SECRET

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